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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 26 May 1971

1. (Secret - JMM) Russ Blandford and Frank Slatinshek, House Armed Services Committee staff, called regarding today's New York Times article by John Finney about SS-9 and SS-11 silos. Blandford said he would like somebody from the Agency, preferably General Cushman, to meet with Blandford and Slatinshek on Tuesday, 1 June, at 10:00 a.m., along with General Philpott, of DIA, in order to get an agreed CIA/DIA statement on the subject which could be used to refute some of Finney's allegations. After checking with the Director, I told Blandford that General Cushman would not be available but Carl Duckett would be glad to join them at that time. I explained that, as Slatinshek would recall from my earlier briefing, we didn't entirely agree with the Finney article but it was accurate in important respects so they should not expect us to completely refute it. Slatinshek said he understood the situation but wanted to refute some of Finney's flat statements which went beyond the position of the intelligence community. Slatinshek said that at the 1 June meeting they would want a paper on the subject coordinated between CIA and DIA. Mr. Duckett is working this out with DIA.

Discussed with Blandford and Slatinshek their request for information on all Agency covert action programs, explaining this was something we would not want to put in writing but would be glad to discuss orally and suggested they visit Headquarters for this purpose. It was agreed they would come to Headquarters for a general discussion of the Agency budget and our CA programs at 2:30 p.m., on Tuesday, 1 June 1971.

2. (Confidential - JMM) In the absence of Representative Charles Gubser (R., Calif.), I talked to Miss Jean Gordon, his Administrative Assistant, regarding inquiries Mr. Gubser had received, and referred to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, concerning Agency involvement in Southeast Asian drug traffic. I said we understood from contacts in the Bureau that they had received Mr. Gubser's inquiry and were preparing a response which they hoped to deliver by noon tomorrow. I said we also understood this response would speak favorably of the Agency's cooperation with the Bureau in working on the drug problem, and we wonder whether, if this was the case, the Congressman might be willing to insert it in the Congressional Record, thus giving us something we could refer to in answering numerous questions on this subject. Miss Gordon said she could not speak for the Congressman but would be glad to call the letter to his attention with my suggestion as soon as it was received.

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